



Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950

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CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

BROWNBACK ANNOUNCES \$13.5 MILLION IN FEMA AID TO KANSAS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today announced that Kansas will receive \$13.5 million in disaster aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"I am pleased to announce today that Kansas will receive \$13.5 million in disaster aid from FEMA for unmet needs related to flooding that occurred in 1998," Brownback said. "This disaster aid covers everyone who qualifies for buy-out assistance under FEMA requirements.

"I applaud this announcement by FEMA Director James Lee Witt and the immediate action by Congress to approve funds to be used for disaster relief projects.

"Kansans suffered massive property damage in 1998 due to the flooding in Butler, Sedgwick, and Cowley counties. The response by FEMA will allow these counties to continue their buyout assistance and mitigation efforts to prevent future flooding.

"I am also pleased that FEMA will be allocating additional funds to help Kansans who suffered losses from the tornados earlier this year," Brownback said.

Brownback and Rep. Todd Tiahrt personally spoke with Witt in June to request this economic assistance for Kansans attempting to recover from the floods and tornados.

Nationwide, there were over \$2 billion in requests for disaster aid. FEMA was appropriated a total of \$230 million to address disaster-related needs not met by federal disaster relief programs. This money was appropriated by Congress under the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill of 1999. This money will cover presidentially declared major disasters in FY 1998 and 1999.

Funds will go directly to states which will employ projects consistent with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. States may use up to 7% of these funds for costs to administer or manage the grant. States must provide quarterly progress and financial reports to FEMA.

FEMA will be allocating \$41 million in the future to states that have had a presidentially declared major disaster between January 1, 1999 and May 21, 1999. These funds will be allocated after FEMA completes its survey of unmet needs projects.

**Kansas will receive additional funds during this second round of allocation to help meet the expensive cleanup costs associated with the deadly tornados that struck Kansas earlier this year.